

BUCK TRACY: THE THIRTIES

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OCT 16 1979

DICK TRACY THE THIRTIES



TOMMYGUNS AND HARD TIMES

Herb Galewitz, Editor

1978
Chelsea House Publishers
New York London

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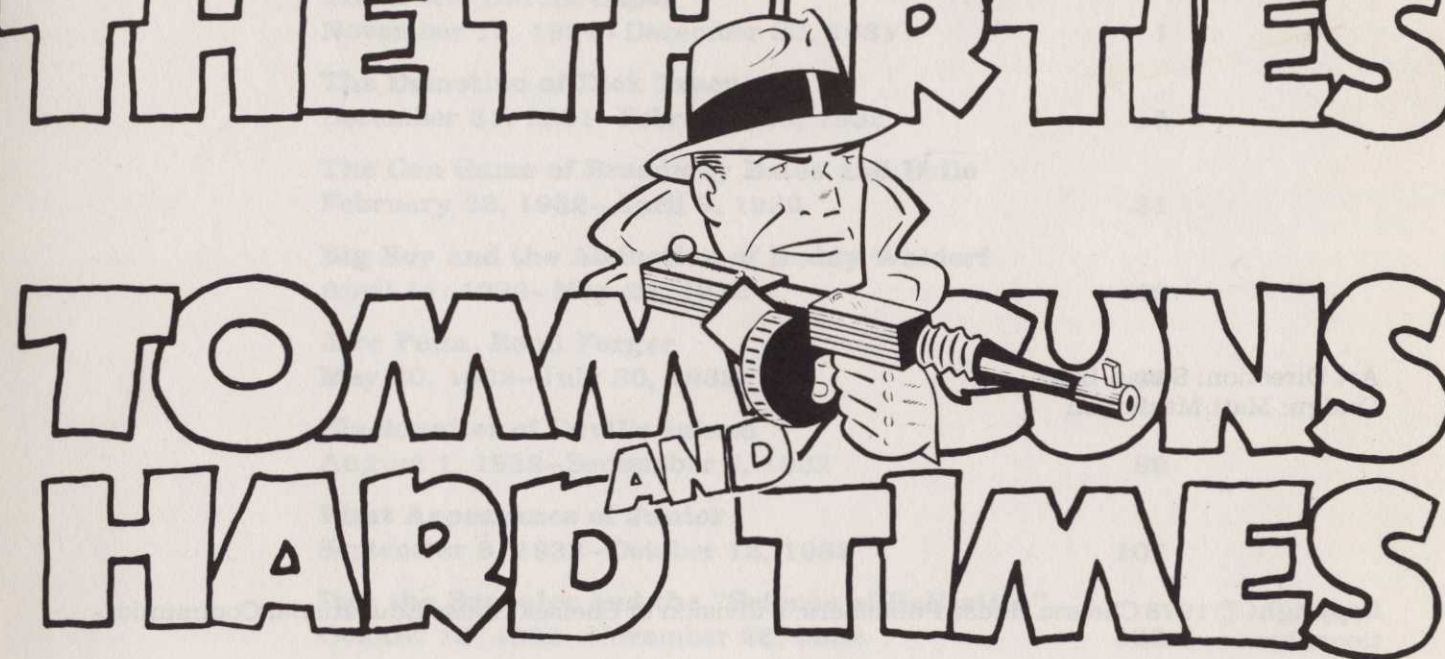
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DICK TRACY THE THIRTIES



Chester Gould
Herb Galewitz, Editor

C. 034

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In the early thirties, machine guns rattled, illicit beer trucks roared down dark streets, and the hooch gangs were giving Chicago coppers a bad time. The country needed a super-sleuth—and got him in DICK TRACY by Chester Gould. The hook-nosed nemesis of the hoods launched his career of shooting down crooks and shooting up newspaper circulation.

1931-33 was an era in American history that was so devastating to so many people and to such a degree that it is hard to comprehend at a distance of almost half a century.

The newspapers were filled with horror stories: men living in the streets under a viaduct in Brooklyn; a 28-year-old man dropping dead of starvation on the sidewalks of midtown Manhattan; a sanitationman committing suicide by jumping into an incinerator because his salary was too meagre to support his family. (Can you imagine the despair of those who had no jobs?)

The President for most of this period was Herbert Hoover, who had earned a reputation as a relief savior of war-torn Belgium. But when the economic bottom fell out of his own country, Hoover had no panacea for its recovery. At least none that worked.

All sorts of nostrums were tried. Local self-help organizations were formed and some had promotional tie-ins with show biz personalities like Georgie Jessel and Mary Pickford. The media stressed the need for people to keep buying to pump-prime the economy. Soothsayers and seers were asking the populace to put their shoulders to the wheel and all would be well.

Nothing worked. A New York **News** list of the 12 best stocks of the week showed a decline in value for all. The private philanthropic organizations were overwhelmed, while the mayors of the

major cities were pleading with Washington to get federal and state welfare programs in operation before thousands would starve or freeze to death. Some newspaper editorials were also wondering where governmental welfare, if it came, was going to lead, but all agreed that the situation was serious.

Back in the 1920's, with the advent of Prohibition, new modes of criminal activity were spawned. Beer barons, rumrunners and speak-easies were added to the American scene. Paved roads, faster cars, and the Thompson sub-machine gun were all put to use by the underworld in a quest for the quick buck.

During the relatively good economic times of the 1920's, the hoodlum capers were viewed almost with detachment by the general population. W. R. Burnett, author of the seminal **Little Caesar**, recalled two incidents from a stay in Chicago in the late 1920's. In what might today be called "snuff" radio, Burnett remembers listening to a broadcast from a local cafe, and hearing gunshots interrupt the dance music. It was a gang rub-out.

Another time, the sound of explosions awoke Burnett in his hotel room. Hurrying downstairs, he learned that a gang war was in progress between garage owners, and one of the rivals had thrown a few "pineapples" at his adversary's building across the street. Neither the hotel manager nor the garage workers were upset. It was "business as usual."

As Chester Gould states in his introduction, if you were a law-abiding citizen and didn't get involved, these criminal antics wouldn't really affect your day-to-day life.

But after that fateful day in October, 1929, when the stock market crashed, there was a



decided change in the public's attitude toward crime.

Now law-abiding citizens were without jobs or prospects, and they deeply resented the gangster who was making large illegal profits and thumbing his nose at the law while those with jobs were desperate to hold on to them.

In the early 1930's, the depression continued to deepen and kidnapping reached its all-time high (or low), to be climaxed in 1932 by the "crime of the century," the Lindbergh case. With the country in an uproar, and passions fanned by the sensationalist and mostly misleading stories in the newspapers, there was a demand for extreme penalties for all criminals. Curiously enough, the underworld was called in to aid in the capture of the Lindbergh kidnappers and the return of the baby. The "boys" failed in their efforts but they made a few bucks in the deal. (Recently in New York several Mafia types declared that they would find the "Son of Sam" murderer. They too were unsuccessful, much to the chagrin of the tabloid newspapers.)

Chester Gould, a Chicago resident at the time, was no exception. He was just as fed up with the antics of the Capones and the Roger Touhys as were most of the citizens. Perhaps even more so. For almost a decade, he had been trying to get a comic strip into the Chicago **Tribune** and national newspaper syndication. His submissions had been mainly variations on then-popular comic strips. "Fillum Fables" was his most successful strip to date, but even Gould admits that it was a weak imitation of Ed Wheelan's "Minute Movies" and didn't last too long.

By then Gould's resentment at not becoming a success, at the worsening economic situation and the burgeoning crime rate, came to a boil.

Gould took out his frustrations in a new comic feature, "Plainclothes Tracy," that he sent to Captain Joseph Patterson in New York. Tracy was a cop who believed in "an eye for an eye" and fortunately Patterson, the head of the Chicago Tribune Syndicate, had the same philosophy and took Gould on. Patterson changed the name of the strip to **DICK TRACY**, directed Gould to "show the bullets going into the body," which became a trademark of the strip, suggested the bare bones of the first story,* and **DICK TRACY** was off and running.

Gould threw himself into the work with enthusiasm, but it wasn't easy, and some days he worked around the clock. Inspiration came in spurts as it does for most artists. Gould relied heavily on melodrama, and such literary devices as chance encounters, the fortuitous overhearing of important conversations, liberal use of slang and dialect speech.

We must bear in mind that there had never been anything like **DICK TRACY** in comic strips. The vast majority were literally "funnies," such as "Captain and the Kids," "Bringing Up Father," "Smitty," "Toonerville Trolley," "Harold Teen," and others. The only New York **News** comics with any element of realism were "Winnie Winkle," "Little Orphan Annie," "Gasoline Alley," and "The Gumps." Though some had action sequences, they were minute compared to the almost continuous gunfights and sluggings in early **DICK TRACY**. "The Gumps," the most popular comic strip of the Chicago Tribune Syndicate, was to go into a head-to-head battle with **DICK TRACY** for the front page

*Reprinted in "The Celebrated Cases of Dick Tracy" (Chelsea House, 1970)



of the New York **Sunday News**. Within two years the two comics were alternating for that vaunted position. By the time Sidney Smith (creator of "The Gumps") died in 1935, **DICK TRACY** moved into permanent possession of that celebrated spot, where it continues even today, though in abbreviated half-tabloid size.

In the very first story Gould had introduced three "good-guy" characters that were to be mainstays for over a decade: Chief Brandon, Tess Trueheart, and Pat Patton. It was a great beginning, and it was strong enough to carry him through most of the very important first year.

The first story in this book, "The Texie Garcia Caper," is the second story to appear in the strip. It begins as a straightforward pursuit of mobster Big Boy, but we are soon sidetracked by the attractive Texie, who is a far more interesting character, and we are into a fairly sophisticated tale of crooked lawyers and politicians.

"The Demotion of Dick Tracy" gives us a titillating view of the love life of Dick and Tess, and in reflection, a glimpse of the social mores of the early 1930's. The sight of Tracy in a bulky police overcoat nonchalantly shooting tin cans out in the sticks emphasizes how times have changed.

Broadway Bates' main claim to fame is that he bears a marked physical resemblance to the character Penguin in the Batman comic books of almost a decade later. Alas, Bates and his bob-haired girl friend, Belle, are not otherwise memorable, though Tracy will long remember the case after having a suitcase full of bricks dropped on his head. Mrs. Trueheart and Heinie, the kindly deli man, give the story some human interest, while Gould's use of silhouettes dramatically enhances the artwork.

"The Buddy Waldorf Kidnap" obviously inspired by the Lindbergh case. Tracy's beating of Big Boy is a wish for an otherwise frustrated America.

With the "Alec Penn" and "De" episodes Gould's inventiveness seen signs of strain, as seen in plots of secret rooms in a zoo, and a father who supposedly loves his daughter, but still while her life is threatened.

At best these episodes were "refreshed," for on September 8, 1933, a character was introduced that was to give impetus to carry it to the very top of the world. The new arrival was a nine-year-old boy. Ostensibly Dick Tracy rescues him and gives him his own name, but in reality he is **DICK TRACY**. Not only did the character become better and far more believable, but the strip started to improve strikingly. As a result, enough, accompanying Junior was Gould's great villains, Steve the Tramp, 46 years later, old-time fans like to collect one of the first **DICK TRACY** Johnson caramel cards which reproduce the Tramp and "Stooge" Viller's introduction a little later of "Stooge" Viller, another great Gould creation, even the fact that the author was now in full command.

Junior, always appealing in his knickers, attracted the young, the young women between. The comic now became the homes of millions of youngsters and their parents to get the paper with it. Without a doubt, the comics were maintaining the New York **News** as the leading newspaper in the U.S. for a



decided change in the public's attitude toward crime.

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The number of newspapers carrying DICK TRACY never approached the massive syndication of such features as "Bringing Up Father" and "Blondie." The Chicago Tribune Syndicate believed that if a paper wanted to run DICK TRACY it had better be prepared to pay for it. There were no \$5-per-week prices or package deals, as was common with other syndicates. The Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate, to give the full name, liked to call their comics operation a "Tiffany" affair, since they only handled some twenty-odd strips and almost every one was a winner. DICK TRACY went to the top of their list within a couple of years.

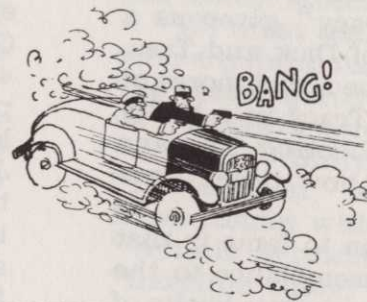
In intensity of readership, I doubt if there was any newspaper comic that approached DICK TRACY in the 1930's and 1940's. Kids were enthralled by it and soon were engulfed in a wave of Dick Tracy toys, games, and miscellany. By the end of the decade, there were Dick Tracy movies

and radio shows to thrill his legion of fans.

The strip was still the main thing and it kept getting better. Characters to come in the immediate future included: "Confidence" Dolan; Jean Penfield, the Claudette Colbert look-alike in the memorable fight with Tess Trueheart; Ben Spaldoni, the crooked lawyer; J. Scotland Bumstead; the evil Doc Hump; Junior's mother; and the frizzy-haired cutie Toby Townley. It's time to reprint this whole era, and with a bit of encouragement, we could very well do it.

May I offer a deep bow of appreciation to Matt Masterson, who has done a miraculous job in restoring these classic sequences from fading newspapers, and to Chester Gould for allowing us to print for the first time anywhere his "Plainclothes Tracy" submission episodes and for all his valuable cooperation.

HERB GALEWITZ



A Fan Speaks...

Growing up in an era where the hero couldn't fly, outrace a bullet, or see through walls, we came to rely on the Super-Detective. Our heroes (all immortal) were non-Americans, like Mr. Moto, Charlie Chan and Sherlock Holmes. This was the time of Prohibition, lawlessness and a national depression, from which emerged a true red-blooded American hero: the comic strip detective, Dick Tracy the invincible. To a generation of chil-

dren growing up in this mob-controlled time, Dick Tracy was a figure representing law and order, one they could respect and believe in—because Dick Tracy, against unbelievable odds, always won!

Thank you, Chester Gould, for all the years of enjoyment.

Tony Cichiolo
Bell Captain, Algonquin Hotel, New York, 1978

x

Chester Gould Reminisces

In mid-September 1921, I received a letter from my dear mother. She said,

"Dear Son. I've just read in the newspaper about those gangsters in Chicago who have been shooting and robbing people for no reason at all, and YOU with \$50 in your pocket! Come home at once!"

I had arrived in Chicago with \$50 cash in my pocket from my hometown of Pawnee, Oklahoma on September 1, 1921, determined to be a newspaper cartoonist. I was loaded with sample sports cartoons I had drawn for the **Daily Oklahoman** and editorial cartoons from the **Tulsa Democrat**. My aim was to crash the "big-time" cartoon world of Sid Smith's "The Gumps," Frank King's "Gasoline Alley," and Carl Ed's "Harold Teen," all great comics of the time and successful for many years after. But it would be ten years (almost to the day) before I would be able to join that select group.

Well, I hated to disappoint my mother but I didn't go home. To me, Chicago was a beautiful, wonderful, glamorous and peaceful place to become a millionaire, and I wouldn't dream of turning back. Becoming a millionaire, however, has proved to be one of the most elusive fantasies of my life.

My first Chicago job was far removed from the world of journalism. Newspaper jobs, as usual, were not plentiful and I wound up stacking groceries in an A&P on Devon Street. Fortunately, I was only there for a month when I heard that an artist on the Chicago **Evening Journal** was sick and I applied and got his job on a temporary basis at a surprising \$30 per week. At that time, Chi-

cago had six major daily newspapers: the **Tribune**, the **Herald-Examiner**, the **Journal**, the **American**, the **Evening Journal**, and the **Evening Post**. Thereafter, I was never without a newspaper.

While I was not setting the record for still doing an occasional comic strip, I was with reporters on special pieces, and to the action. There was plenty of action, sparked by the speakeasies, the Beer Barons warring with each other with machine guns. Though the citizen was more or less in an unpleasant business, it was supported by those who paid to speak.

Without a doubt, it was this idea of DICK TRACY in my head, of fixed juries, crooked judges, officials and cops who looked the crying need for a restorative of law and order who would give an eye and a tooth for a tooth. That was the idea.

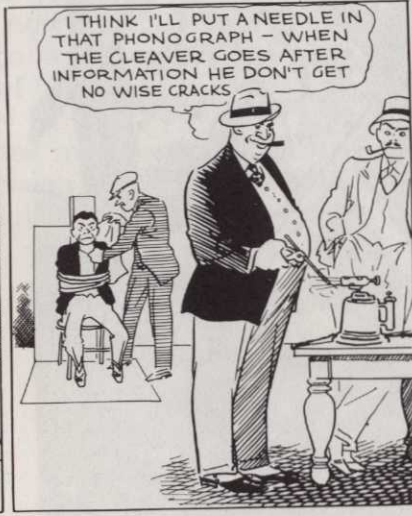
Captain Joseph M. Patterson of the New York **Daily News** announced that it distributed its comic strip. In 1931, I sent him six strips of "Dick Tracy". After two months, I received the following wire:

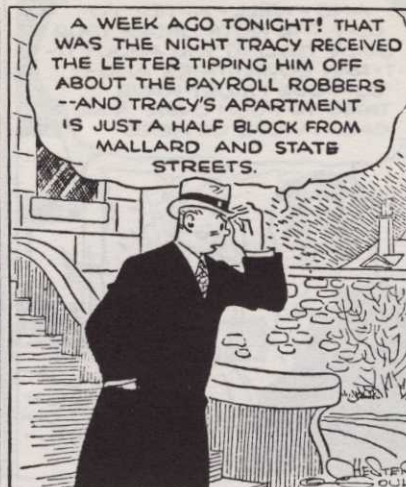
BELIEVE PLAINCLOTHES
POSSIBILITIES. SEE ME AT
OFFICE THE 20TH.

Needless to say I was promoted in the Trib Tower. Paid \$100 a week.

xi

"PLAIN CLOTHES TRACY"





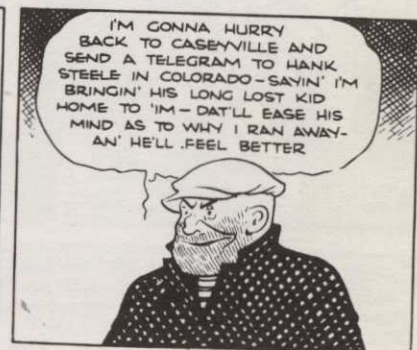
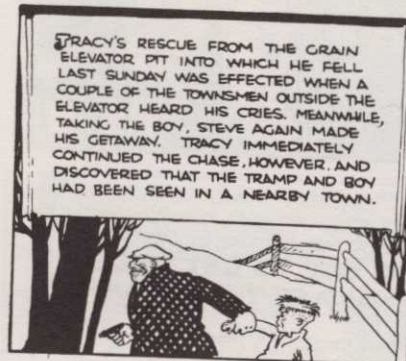


DICK TRACY

WELL-
DETECTIVE.
ARE YOUR
CLOTHES DRIED
OUT?

YES-AND I WANT TO THANK YOU
FOR SAVING ME FROM THAT GRAIN ELEVATOR
PIT-AND NOW THE SHERIFF AND I ARE GOING
TO CONTINUE THE
SEARCH
FOR THE
KID.

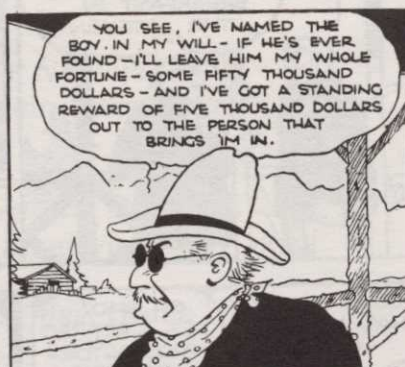
by
HESTER
GOLD



DICK TRACY

CHEE - NOT 'IN' EVER HAPPENS AROUND HERE ANYMORE!

COMING EVENTS.

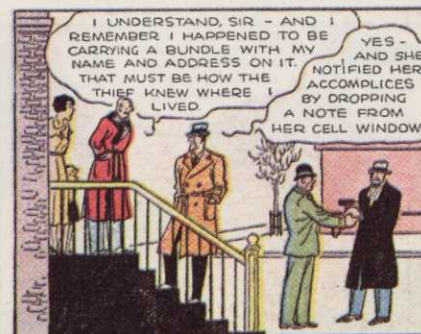
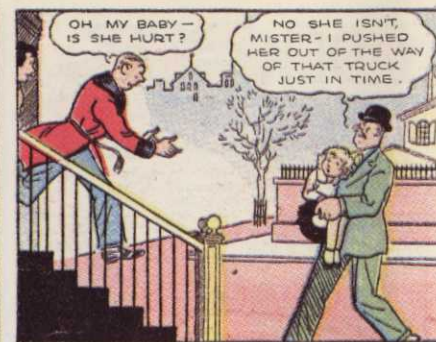
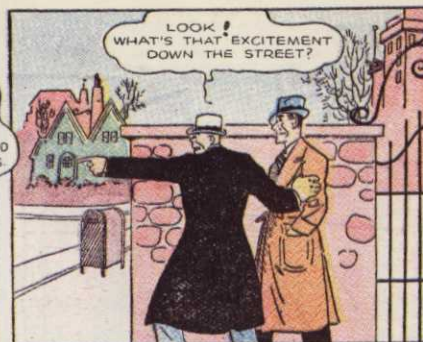
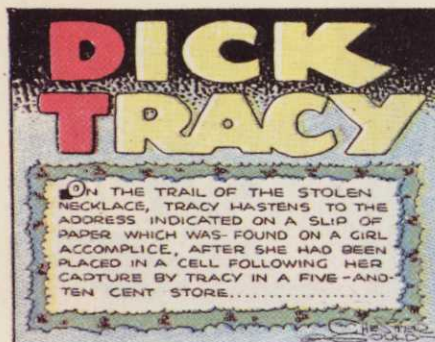




Published in this book for the first time anywhere
are the five daily strips that Chester Gould sent to
Captain Patterson of the Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate
for consideration as a new comic feature.



Chester Gould



CIGARETTE SADIE





Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

PALM SPRINGS has adorned its downtown with banners expressing affection for Canadians, who have long pumped millions of dollars into the economy each winter as they trade their heavy coats for resortwear.

Canadian snowbirds, stung by Trump, flock from Palm Springs

The city braces for an economic hit as homes are sold and vacations canceled.

BY HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

PALM SPRINGS — Christopher Climie, who recently moved to Palm Springs, was supposed to be hosting visitors from his native Canada this week.

Ten friends — all gay men, like Climie — had planned to fly in from Toronto. They were going to



CHRISTOPHER CLIMIE says 10 friends from Toronto canceled a visit because of President Trump.

trade the cold and rain for a hot desert weekend at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, where their beloved Lady Gaga is set to perform.

But because of tensions between Canada and President Trump, they canceled their plans.

"They were like, 'No, Gaga is not worth it,'" said Climie, 39. "For a gaggle of gays to say Gaga is not worth it? You know there's a problem."

The Coachella Valley has long been a favorite destination for Canadian snowbirds, who pump millions of

[See Snowbirds, A6]

plan to impose tariffs of their own as world grapples with fallout.

BY FAITH E. PINHO AND MICHAEL WILNER

WASHINGTON — Canada will begin imposing 25% tariffs on select U.S. car imports Wednesday, ratcheting up tensions between Washington and Ottawa as the rest of the world grapples with President Trump's ongoing assault on the global economic order.

Canada's move came hours after Beijing vowed that China would "fight to the end" over the Trump administration's tariff policy, which it characterized as an attempt to "blackmail" the world. As of Wednesday, all products imported from

The news led to yet another day of market turmoil, with the Dow Jones industrial average, Standard & Poor's 500 and Nasdaq all beginning the day with promising rallies that disappeared by the closing bell.

The steps from two of America's largest trading partners — one friend, one foe — exemplified the challenges ahead for the Trump administration, which said that its sweeping global tariffs policy on nearly every country on Earth would remain in place. Only direct negotiations with trading partners, on an individual basis, could potentially result in new trade agreements that would lift or ease some restrictions, officials said.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Tuesday [See Trade, A6]

Tariffs put L.A. toy and apparel makers in a bind

Many of their goods are produced abroad and 'cannot be made here,' one exec says.

BY LAURENCE DARMIENTO

Isaac Larian thought Donald Trump was good for business in his first term when he lowered taxes. So the billionaire entrepreneur figured "common sense" would prevail in his second term, despite the president's campaign to impose tariffs as a way of resuscitating American manufacturing.

It hasn't worked out that way, stunning the founder and chief executive of MGA Entertainment, the

Chatsworth company that makes its popular Bratz and L.O.L. Surprise dolls and other toys mostly in Asia.

A little more than half of MGA's products are made in China, which on Tuesday vowed to take countermeasures against the United States after Trump threatened an additional 50% tariff on Chinese imports.

"Look, I'm not against Trump," he said. "I think he really genuinely cares for the U.S.A., but it's wrong to put these tariffs on toys. A lot of toys cannot be made here. What's going to happen is the following: Let's say a toy that was sold for \$10 now will be \$20, right? That means that a lot less people can afford it, which means layoffs, which means a small toy [See Companies, A9]

Social Security service upended by cuts

BY JENNY JARVIE AND NATHAN SOLIS

When Veronica Sanchez called a Social Security hotline Thursday, she waited two hours before her call was abruptly disconnected.

On Friday, she was on hold for six hours and still did not get through to anyone.

"I'm gonna have to take time out of my work to stand in line and hopefully get this resolved," the 52-year-old medical practice manager in Canoga Park said Monday.

For Sanchez, the stakes are high: If she does not obtain a medical letter from the agency by April 15, her parents, who are on a fixed income, risk losing about \$2,500 a month in medical

care. They would no longer receive insulin medication for their diabetes, she said, and could lose their daily visit from a nurse.

But even if Sanchez shows up in person, she is not likely to speak to an agent. Field offices are no longer accepting walk-in appointments.

"The system, it's broken down," Sanchez said.

Elderly and disabled people — and those who care for them — are encountering a knot of bureaucratic hurdles and service disruptions after the Trump administration imposed a sweeping overhaul of the Social Security Administration system.

No field offices in California have closed. But there is rising frustration across [See Social Security, A7]

Another Trump legal victory: The Supreme Court allows the mass firing of new federal workers. **NATION, A5**

A mystery resurfaces off coast: Rising gray whale deaths

Scientists are seeing a repeat six years after a die-off near the North American Pacific shore

BY SUSANNE RUST

Gray whales are dying in large numbers, again.

At least 70 whales have perished since the start of the year in the shallow, protected lagoons of Mexico's Baja California peninsula where the animals have congregated for eons to calf, nurse and breed, said Steven Swartz, a marine scientist who has studied gray whales since 1977. And only five mother-calf pairs were identified in Laguna San Ignacio, where most of the wintering whales tend to congregate, Swartz said.

That's the lowest number of mother-calf pairs ever observed in the lagoon, according to annual reports from Gray Whale Research in Mexico, an international team of researchers — co-founded by Swartz — that

has been observing gray whales in Laguna San Ignacio since the late 1970s.

The whales are now headed north. In just the last two weeks, three gray whales have died in San Francisco Bay, one of which was described by veterinarians and pathologists at the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito as skinny and malnourished. Evaluations on the two other deaths are still being conducted.

Alisa Schulman-Janiger, who has led the Los Angeles chapter of the American Cetacean Society's gray whale census at Rancho Palos Verdes since 1979, said the number of whales she and her volunteers have observed migrating north this spring and swimming south this past winter is the lowest on record.

"We didn't see a single [See Whales, A9]



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

A GRAY WHALE pushes her calf to the surface in Laguna San Ignacio, Mexico, in 2021. There have been few mother-calf pairs in the lagoon this year.

Feds to look into homeless funds

A new task force will investigate potential fraud and corruption in regional services. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Lakers' Doncic moved by runner

Star finds inspiration from once-paralyzed countryman who went from skier to marathoner. **SPORTS, B10**

Another hurdle for Hollywood?

Trade war could lead China to ban U.S. movies, which already are struggling in the giant market. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather

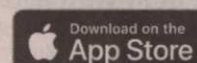
Sunny and warm. **L.A. Basin: 80/54. B6**

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Photographs by JOSH EDELSON For The Times
TULE ELK wander in a windswept pasture at Point Reyes National Seashore. The species is endangered.

Emotions churn over these Point Reyes dairies

Environmentalists celebrate settlement that will close historic family ranches. Locals say they're losing a community's soul.

By Jessica Garrison | REPORTING FROM POINT REYES STATION, CALIF.

With fog-kissed streets featuring a buttery bakery, an eclectic bookstore and markets peddling artisanal cheeses crafted from the milk of lovingly coddled cows, Point Reyes Station is about as picturesque as tourist towns come in California.

It is also a place that, at the moment, is roiling with anger. A place where many locals feel they're waging an uphill battle for the soul of their community.

The alleged villains are unexpected, here in one of the cradles of the organic food movement: the National Park Service and a slate of environmental organizations that maintain that the herds of cattle that have



A SIGN for D Ranch, established in 1870, in Point Reyes Station. Cattle have grazed on the peninsula for more than 150 years.

grazed on the Point Reyes Peninsula for more than 150 years are polluting watersheds and threatening endangered species, including the majestic tule elk that roam the windswept headlands.

In January, the park service and environmental groups including the Nature Conservancy and the Center for Biological Diversity announced a "landmark agreement" to settle the conflict. The settlement, resolving a lawsuit filed in 2022, would pay most of the historic dairies and cattle ranches on the seashore to move out. The fences would come down, and the elk would roam free. Contamination from [See Dairies, A5]

A TIMES INVESTIGATION

Banned from assisted living, but still in the care business

People barred from operating homes in state persist in different facilities, where issues continue

By Emily Alpert Reyes and Ben Poston

Rats had infested the assisted living facility in Van Nuys, state investigators said. Elderly residents wandered off without supervision, medications weren't properly administered, and emergency pull cords in some bedrooms didn't work, the state alleged.

One blind resident, who had no way to call a caregiver for help, had to defecate repeatedly in a trash can, according to allegations made by the California Department of Social Services, which said the home had been smeared throughout with residue from human feces.

Alarmed by those and other alleged violations, Social Services officials revoked the license for the company running California Villa of Van Nuys six years ago.

Tatyana and Edvard Krivitsky, who were identified by the state as being associated with the home, didn't admit to the state accusations, but the couple agreed in a stipulation that they would never oversee or work in such assisted living facilities again — or even set foot in one unless they were visiting a family member who lived there.

Yet that ban by the Department of Social Services didn't stop Tatyana Krivitsky from being involved in other kinds of caregiving businesses overseen by different state agencies, including residential facilities for people suffering serious medical conditions, a Times investigation found.

The prohibition applied to "residential care facilities for the elderly," commonly referred to as assisted living or eldercare facilities, as well as other nonmedical care facilities under the umbrella of the Department of Social Services. [See Caregiving, A6]

'Gladiator fights' in juvenile halls

Thirty officers were indicted in connection with the brawls in L.A. County's troubled youth justice system.

By Rebecca Ellis and James Queally

The teenager didn't always have to eat the drab grits and sausage at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

For kids like him — kids willing to fight — there was another breakfast option.

The teenager said a few L.A. County probation officers often approached him about kids they were struggling to control.

"There's a meal on his head," an officer would tell him.

"It's basically a bounty," recounted the teenager, now 18, who asked that his name not be used for fear of retaliation. "We stomp on the kid, and then we get our food."

If the teenager dished out a beating to a misbehaving kid — someone who cursed at officers or defied orders — he was rewarded with his pick from a fast-food smorgasbord of In-N-Out, Jack in the Box, McDonald's or Chick-fil-A, he said.

Concerns about probation officers encouraging fights inside L.A. County's beleaguered juvenile halls gained a spotlight last year after The Times published video footage showing officers standing by as at least six youths took turns pummeling a teenager inside Los Padrinos.

The video sparked an investigation by the California Department of Justice, ending with 30 officers indicted on criminal charges this month. Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta said officers either coordinated or allowed 69 brawls, which he referred to as "gladiator fights," between July and December 2023.

While the indictment was [See Teens, A12]

GEORGE FOREMAN, 1949 - 2025

Boxing great fought in legendary bouts

He battled Ali in 'Rumble in the Jungle,' went on to pitch grills on TV

By Mike Kupper

George Foreman, the sleek, surly boxer who tangled with Muhammad Ali in the epic "Rumble in the Jungle" heavyweight championship fight before embarking on a lifetime of reinventions as a minister, youth counselor, cookbook author and TV pitchman for his own line of big and tall menswear, has died.

As bubbly in the spotlight as he was ferocious in the ring, Foreman died on Friday, his family announced in a social media post. He was 76.

"A devout preacher, a devoted husband, a loving father, and a proud grand- and great-grandfather, he lived a life marked by unwavering faith, hu-



SPORTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

REGIONAL 4 :: NO. 1 USC 71, NO. 16 NORTH CAROLINA GREENSBORO 25

UP NEXT | SECOND ROUND : MONDAY VS. NO. 9 MISSISSIPPI STATE AT GALEN CENTER, TIME TBD

After scare, USC finds good JuJu

Watkins shakes off injuries while 'Trojans' pressing defense proves overwhelming for Greensboro

By RYAN KARTJE

JuJu Watkins winced, shaking her left hand as the collective hoops world held its breath. The first 10 minutes of USC's NCAA tournament debut had been disconcerting enough already. Errant passes sailed. Makeable jumpers clanked away. And No. 16 seed North Carolina Greensboro, having said it would "shock the world," was at the very least making life difficult for the top-seeded Trojans.

Then, their star sophomore went up for a rebound early in the second quarter and emerged from under the hoop in obvious pain, an image that inevitably conjured dark thoughts of worst-case scenarios.

But Watkins eventually shook away the pain of a jammed finger. A smothering USC press eventually put a stop to Greensboro's plucky start. And the Trojans eventually rolled through their overmatched first-round opponent with a convincing 71-25 win Saturday, moving on to the second round where they'll face Mississippi State.

"We had some rust to get off," Watkins said. "Hopefully that's all done with."

Watkins still managed to pour in 22 points to lead USC, but she battled through more pain to get there. After landing awkwardly in the third quarter, Watkins limped immediately to the locker room, only to return a few minutes later for the fourth quarter.

The matchup already was well in hand, begging the question of why USC coach Lindsay Gottlieb risked further injury by playing Watkins. Gottlieb, when asked about that decision, said she trusted the judgment of Watkins and USC's trainers, who all said she was good to go.

Watkins still limped into the postgame news conference before reiterating to reporters that she was "all [See USC, D5]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

USC GUARD JuJu Watkins boxes out North Carolina Greensboro forward Khalis Cain to snatch a rebound at the Galen Center.

REGIONAL 1 :: NO. 1 UCLA 84, NO. 16 SOUTHERN 46

UP NEXT | SECOND ROUND : TONIGHT VS. NO. 8 RICHMOND AT PAULEY PAVILION, 7 | TV: ESPN

Betts and Bruins offer no Southern comfort

Star center and teammates use height advantage to dominate Jaguars, set program mark in opening win

By THUC NHI NGUYEN

Southern's Tionna Lidge barely jumped for the opening tip. With UCLA's Lauren Betts on the other side, the result seemed inevitable.

Betts had 14 points and six rebounds Friday as No. 1-seeded UCLA cruised to an 84-46 win over No. 16 South-

and UCLA's deep roster. The Bruins aren't the No. 1 overall seed for no reason, Southern guard DaKiyah Sanders said nonchalantly. Betts has been the driving force behind UCLA's record-setting season and will dominate every opposition's scouting report as the Bruins continue their chase for the program's first NCAA title.

ders (28-6) won their first NCAA tournament game in program history by dominating No. 9 Georgia Tech 74-49 behind 30 points, 15 rebounds and six assists from forward Maggie Doogan.

Since their game-changing transfer came to Westwood last year, the Bruins have completely shifted their style of play. Before



L.A.'s budget gap nears \$1 billion

Council revisits salary arrangements with unionized public workers. 'Thousands' of layoffs considered.

BY DAVID ZAHNISER

L.A.'s financial problems exploded into a full-blown crisis on Wednesday, with the city's top budget official announcing that next year's shortfall is now just shy of \$1 billion, making layoffs "nearly inevitable."

City Administrative Officer Matt Szabo advised the City Council to focus on cost-cutting measures, including a potential reduction in the size of the workforce, to bring the budget into balance for 2025-26.

Szabo, in his presentation to the council Wednesday, attributed the city's financial woes, in part, to increased spending on legal payouts, which have ballooned over the last few years. Tax revenues have been coming in much weaker than expected — and are expected to soften further in the upcoming budget year, which starts July 1.

Pay raises for city employees that are scheduled to go into effect in the coming budget year are expected to consume an additional \$250 million. On top of that, Szabo said, the city needs to put hundreds of millions into its reserve fund, which has been drained in recent months in an attempt to balance this year's budget.

"The severity of the revenue decline, paired with rising costs, has created a budget gap that makes layoffs nearly inevitable," he said. "We're not looking at dozens or even hundreds of layoffs, but thousands."

Mayor Karen Bass must present her strategy for closing the \$1-billion gap by April 21, the legal deadline for her to release her proposed 2025-26 budget. At this point, neither she nor the council are willing to wait.

"Because of the severity of the gap we are facing, the [See Budget, A9]



AL SEIB For The Times

UCLA FACULTY members and others rally Wednesday. UC President Michael V. Drake said the cutbacks would affect nearly every aspect of the UC operation, including administrative offices and all 10 campuses.

Rap's 'godfather' accused of murder, fraud

BY BRITTNY MEJIA

Eugene "Big U" Henley, a Crips leader who helped launch Nipsey Hussle's career and was dubbed rap's "godfather," has been accused of murder, kidnapping, robbery, extortion and fraud, federal authorities announced Wednesday.

As part of Henley's purported grip on Los Angeles, his alleged victims "were required to 'check in' with Henley before arriving in the city in order to obtain 'protection,' according to the 107-page federal complaint unveiled Wednesday. Among those Henley allegedly extorted from were professional athletes and musicians, the complaint said, whose business interests were not always legitimate.

Federal authorities likened Henley's "Big U Enterprise" to a "mafia-like organization" that relied on his "stature and long-standing association with the Rollin' 60s and other street gangs to intimidate businesses and individuals" in L.A.

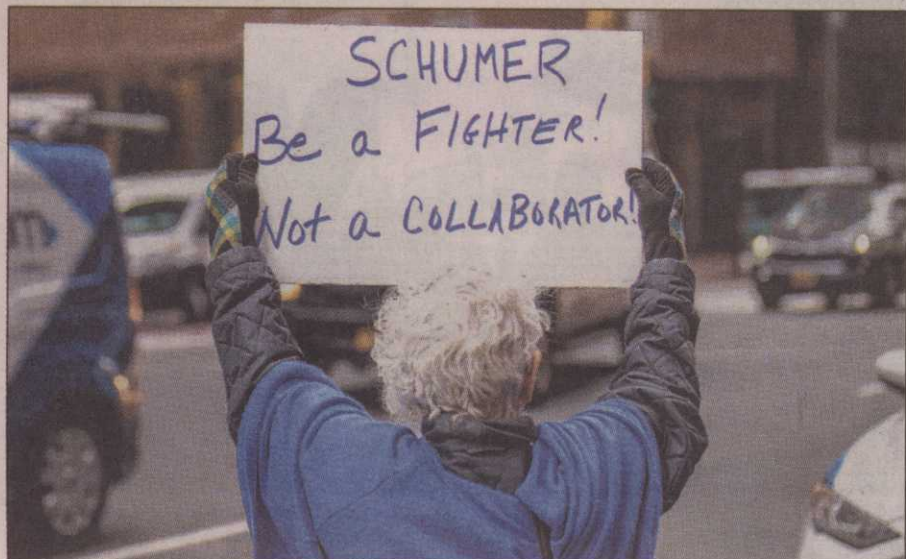
[See Henley, A7]

Eugene 'Big U' Henley, a Crips leader who became a gang interventionist, headed a 'mafia-like' enterprise, federal complaint says



PRINCE WILLIAMS WireImage

NIPSEY HUSSELE, left, hugs Eugene "Big U" Henley at a music event in Atlanta in 2018. Henley, who faces federal charges, helped launch the late rapper's career.



MICHAEL NIGRO Pacific Press/LightRocket

A PROTESTER outside the New York office of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer last week urges him to fight a GOP spending bill, which split Democrats.

In Golden State, fewer kindergarten students got the measles vaccine

BY HANNAH WILEY,
LAURA J. NELSON
AND KOKO NAKAJIMA

Despite having some of the nation's strictest school vaccination laws, California reported a decline last year in the share of kindergarten students who were immunized against measles, including in 16 counties where students no longer have herd immunity against one of the most contagious diseases.

which are usually higher, were not yet available.

California's childhood vaccination rates are still higher than in the U.S. overall. But public health experts say the declining immunization rate creates two main risks: that measles could spread here amid the deadly outbreak that began in Texas, and that the immunization rate could continue to fall.

The COVID-19 pandemic worsened trust in public health institutions, experts

UC orders cuts, hiring freeze

University sees 'significant financial challenges ahead' as Trump threatens to pull federal funding.

BY JAWEED KALEEM

The University of California on Wednesday announced a systemwide hiring freeze to stave off layoffs and downsizing as it confronts unprecedented threats by the Trump administration to slash medical and science research funding key to its mission as the nation's premier public university system.

Saying American higher education is in a "time of great uncertainty," President Michael V. Drake explained the decision in a Wednesday letter and during a UC regents meeting. He said the cutbacks would affect nearly every aspect of the far-reaching UC operation, including administrative offices and all 10 campuses.

"The new administration in Washington, D.C., has announced a number of executive orders and proposed policy changes, including ones that threaten funding for lifesaving research, patient care, and education support," Drake said. Coupled with preparations the university was already making in response to a proposed \$396.6-million state funding cut, Drake said he and chancellors were ready for "significant financial challenges ahead."

The UC actions announced Wednesday include a systemwide hiring freeze, delays in maintenance work and reductions in business travel. Drake said he also directed all UC locations to "prepare financial strategies and workforce management plans" to address shortfalls.

Drake did not announce layoffs. But UC officials said campus chancellors could cull employment rolls to cut [See UC cuts, A12]

New bird flu strain hits South

A flock is wiped out. Meanwhile, a potential path to human immunity is seen for the H5N1 virus. **NATION, A5**

Ventura divided over 'sanctuary'

Residents speak out on proposed LGBTQ+, immigrant and reproductive care protections. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

'Week of Ohtani' lives up to billing

Dodgers star's homer in Tokyo Series culmi-

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WASON WANICHAKORN Associated Press

DEADLY QUAKE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Rescuers work at the site of a high-rise under construction that collapsed in Bangkok after a magnitude 7.7 quake struck Myanmar and Thailand on Friday, killing more than 150 people. **WORLD, A3**

Palisades and Eaton firefighters show higher mercury, lead levels, study finds

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

The immediate risks faced by the firefighters who were on the front lines battling the Palisades and Eaton fires that tore through Los Angeles County may have abated, but long-term health concerns remain.

A team of researchers tested the blood of a group of 20 firefighters who were called to duty when the wildfires hit Los Angeles County communities, and found that they had levels of lead and mercury in their blood that was significantly higher than what health experts consider to be safe — and also higher than firefighters exposed to a forest fire.

The results are part of the longer-term L.A. Fire Health Study, which is investigating the health impacts of the January fires on those exposed to the toxic materials released into the environment. The team includes researchers from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, UC Davis, the

University of Texas at Austin, and the USC Keck School of Medicine.

"What you need to worry about is some of these metals that, when they get burned, they get up in the air," said Dr. Kari Nadeau, chair of the Department of Environmental Health at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and one of [See Firefighters, A10]

Families of missing seek clues at ex-cartel ranch



Jalisco state attorney general's office

SHOES HAVE become the new symbol of Mexico's "disappeared," now exceeding 120,000 people. Officials recently found remains and personal items at Rancho Izaguirre, a former cartel training ground in Jalisco.

BY PATRICK J. McDONNELL

TEUCHITLÁN, Mexico — The anguished mother arrived on a motorcycle, the bike kicking up a cloud of dust as it swerved to a halt before strands of red and yellow crime-scene tape. Heavily armed cops blocked access to the place known as Rancho Izaguirre. But even from far off, María Luz Ruiz said she sensed his presence. "I feel that my son was here," she said, 12 years after he vanished.

She was among a steady stream of relatives of the missing arriving at the ranch entrance, all hoping to find some trace of vanished loved

ones. On a shirtsleeve, Ruiz wore a purple-and-white ribbon — an homage to the disappeared — while a white rose poked out from the top of a bag.

Police in riot gear blocked her and others from proceeding down the unpaved entry road, lined with stands of prickly pear cactus, here in the outskirts of Teuchitlán, a town now tainted with the horrors, real and imagined, of Rancho Izaguirre — a former cartel training camp.

"Teuchitlán: National Shame," read a banner at an angry rally this month in Guadalajara, where protesters chanted, "Narcos out!" and assailed politi- [See Mexico, A4]

Foreign students are on high alert amid arrests

MAR 29 2025

California campuses take extra caution after the U.S. revokes roughly 300 visas.

BY JAWEED KALEEM

Ali, a UCLA student who joined pro-Palestinian protests last year, avoided arrest when riot police dismantled the school's encampment last May. An international student who took part in a surge of campus activism around Israel's war in Gaza, he was wary of having a record that could affect his visa. But he did not otherwise hide his activism.

Now, as federal authorities act on President Trump's directive to deport international student activists he accuses of being anti-semitic "pro-Hamas" terrorism supporters, Ali has taken new precautions. He's moved out of his apartment — the address listed with the government — and is staying with a friend. He attends classes but avoids social events. He carries a piece of paper with the number for a 24-hour hotline faculty set up for students detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

As more arrests unfold, fears among California inter-

national students are growing — and frustrations mounting — as they accuse campus administrators of not doing enough to protect them in the state with the largest foreign student population in the nation and universities at the forefront of national activism.

"It's a matter of time before it gets here," said Ali, who did not want his full name, nationality, area of study or age published because he is worried about being tracked. "This is free speech. Isn't this what this country is supposed to be known for?"

Speaking at a news conference Thursday during a visit to Guyana, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the government had initiated a widespread review of student activists' visas and revoked at least 300.

"We do it every day. Every time I find one of these lunatics, I take away their visa," Rubio said. He added: "I hope at some point we run out because we have gotten rid of all of them, but we're looking every day for these lunatics that are tearing things up."

He later clarified that it has been "primarily student visas, some visitors visas" and that the government has canceled some visas over [See Students, A6]



Associated Press

RUMEYSA OZTURK, a 30-year-old doctoral student at Tufts University, was detained by Department of Homeland Security agents earlier this week.

'Swatting' incidents on the rise and elusive for state to prosecute

Lawmakers look to close loophole as false threats to schools and hospitals spark chaos.

BY CLARA HARTER

Earlier this month, the Claremont Police Department received a chilling 911 report: A caller said they were holding someone captive inside a Claremont McKenna College restroom, carrying a bomb and preparing to shoot anyone they saw on campus.

The call triggered a massive deployment of law en-

forcement and SWAT team members and sent waves of panic coursing through campus as students scrambled to find cover.

But the crisis was fake, the result of a "swatting" call, a hoax 911 report made in the hope of generating a large law enforcement response.

The incident took place one day after a similar threat prompted a lockdown of Loma Linda University's Children's Hospital.

Swatting is a growing problem across the state and country. But California law can make it challenging to hold people accountable [See Swatting, A8]

Modular housing rises as rebuild solution

Fire survivors love speed and simplicity, but builders' promises have failed before.

BY LIAM DILLON

The sense of loss Sue Labella feels after the Pacific Palisades home she'd lived in for almost 50 years burned



L.A. Times sues city over Bass' texts

Officials are accused of unlawfully withholding and

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

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The Northwest is expected to have rain, with snow in the higher elevations. Rain and thunderstorms will remain along the Eastern Seaboard. Weather map appears on Page D8.

APR 07 2025

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MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025

Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

Experts Warn Of Weaponry Left in Syria

Over 100 Sites May Hold
Old Chemical Arms

By MEGHA RAJAGOPALAN

DAMASCUS, Syria — More than 100 chemical weapons sites are suspected to remain in Syria, left behind after the fall of the longtime president, Bashar al-Assad, according to the leading international organization that tracks these weapons.

That number is the first estimate of its kind as the group, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, seeks to enter Syria to assess what remains of Mr. al-Assad's notorious military program. The figure is far higher than any that Mr. al-Assad has ever acknowledged.

The sites are suspected to have been involved in the research, manufacturing and storage of chemical weapons. Mr. al-Assad used weapons like sarin and chlorine gas against rebel fighters and Syrian civilians during more than a decade of civil war.

The number of sites, and whether they are secured, has been a mystery since rebels toppled Mr. al-Assad last year. Now, the chemicals represent a major test for the caretaker government, which is led by the group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. The group is designated as a terrorist organization by the United States, but it has renounced its links to Al Qaeda.

The weapons are deadly, particularly when used in densely populated areas. Sarin, a nerve agent, can kill within minutes. Chlorine and mustard gas, weapons made infamous in World War I, burn the eyes and skin and fill the lungs with fluid, seemingly drowning people on land.

Experts are concerned about the potential for militant groups to gain access to poorly secured chemical weapons facilities.

In a surprise visit in March to the global chemical weapons watchdog headquarters at The Hague, Syria's foreign minister said that the government would "destroy any remains of the chemical weapons program developed under the Assad regime" and comply with international law.

Experts are cautiously optimistic about the government's sincerity. It allowed a team from the watchdog to enter the country this year to begin work documenting the sites, according to people with knowledge of the trip.

But Syria remains in a precarious spot. Violence erupted in the coastal region in recent weeks between government forces and groups aligned with Mr. al-Assad. And despite promises, the new government has not yet appointed an ambassador to the watchdog — a key first step that is seen as a

Continued on Page A9



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

China's rise as a hypercompetitive trading power challenges the U.S. Above, a factory in Hangzhou.



SIMON MAINA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Making textiles in Kenya. Low-income exporters of commodity goods are hit hard by trade wars.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Tariff Barrage Likely to Push U.S. to Margin

Endangering Status as
Driver of Global Trade

By MARK LANDLER

LONDON — President Trump's self-proclaimed "liberation day," in which he announced across-the-board tariffs on the United States' trading partners, carries an echo of another moment when an advanced Western economy threw up walls around itself.

Like Brexit, Britain's fateful vote nearly nine years ago to leave the European Union, Mr. Trump's tariffs struck a hammer blow at the established order. Pulling the United States out of the global economy is not unlike Britain's withdrawing from the Europe-wide trading bloc, and in the view of Brexiters, a comparable act of liberation.

The shock of Mr. Trump's move is reverberating even more widely, given the larger size of the American economy and its place at the fulcrum of global commerce. Yet as with Brexit, its ultimate impact is unsettled: Mr. Trump could yet reverse himself, chastened by plummeting markets or mollified by one-off deals.

More important, economists say, the rise of free trade may be irreversible, its benefits so powerful that the rest of the world finds a way to keep the system going, even without its central player. For all of the setbacks to trade liberalization, and the grievances expressed in Mr. Trump's actions, the barriers have kept falling.

The European Union, optimists point out, did not unravel after Britain's departure. These days, the political talk in London is about ways in which Britain can draw closer to its European neighbors. Still, that sense of possibility has come only after years of turbulence. Economists expect similar chaos to buffet the global trading system as a result of Mr. Trump's theatrical exit.

"It will not be the end of free trade, but it is certainly a retreat from unfettered free trade, which is the way the world seemed to be going," said Eswar S. Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University. "Logically, this would be a time when the rest of the world bands together to promote free trade among themselves," he said. "The reality is, it's going to be every country for itself."

Such a world will be not only unruly, but also potentially more dangerous. While trade wars do not necessarily spiral into shooting wars, historians note that

Continued on Page A8

TRUMP ERODING CYBERDEFENSES AS PERIL GROWS

THREATS TO ELECTIONS

Waltz Says Offense Is the
Priority, but Experts
See Risky Tactics

By DAVID E. SANGER
and NICK CORASANITI

When President Trump abruptly fired the head of the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command on Thursday, it was the latest in a series of moves that have torn away at the country's cyberdefenses just as they are confronting the most sophisticated and sustained attacks in the nation's history.

The commander, Gen. Timothy D. Haugh, had sat atop the enormous infrastructure of American cyberdefenses until his removal, apparently under pressure from the far-right Trump loyalist Laura Loomer. He had been among the American officials most deeply involved in pushing back on Russia, dating to his work countering Moscow's interference in the 2016 election.

His dismissal came after weeks in which the Trump administration swept away nearly all of the government's election-related cyberdefenses beyond the secure N.S.A. command centers at Fort Meade, Md. At the same time, the administration has shrunk much of the nation's complex early-warning system for cyberattacks, a web through which tech firms work with the F.B.I. and intelligence agencies to protect the power grid, pipelines and telecommunications networks.

Cybersecurity experts, election officials and lawmakers — mostly Democrats but a few Republicans — have begun to raise alarms that the United States is knocking down a system that, while still full of holes, has taken a decade to build. It has pushed out some of its most experienced cyberdefenders and fired younger talent brought in to design defenses

Continued on Page A18



KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Gen. Timothy D. Haugh was fired as the head of the N.S.A.

After Meltdown, Wall St. Braces for More Chaos

This article is by Rob Copeland, Lauren Hirsch and Maureen Farrell.

There was little rest on Wall Street this weekend. There was plenty of anger, anxiety, frustration and fear.

Anger at President Trump for a rash and chaotic rollout of tariffs that erased trillions of dollars in value from the stock market in two days. Anxiety about the state of the private equity industry and other colossal funds with global investments. Frustration among Wall Street's elite at their sudden inability to influence the president and his advisers.

Financial Titans Who'd Backed Trump Face Tariff Fallout

And fear of what may come next.

Hedge funds tallied up their losses, and bragged if they only lost a little. Bankers and lawyers tore up already sparse calendars for deal making, reasoning that no chief executive would risk a big merger or public offering soon. Major banks played out emergency scenarios to guess whether

one client or another would fail in the cascading effects of an international trade war.

In conversations with The New York Times over the weekend, bankers, executives and traders said they felt flashbacks to the 2007-8 global financial crisis, one that took down a number of Wall Street giants. Leaving out the brutal but relatively short-lived market panic that erupted at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the velocity of last week's market decline — stocks fell 10 percent over just two days — was topped only by the waves of selling that came as Lehman Brothers collapsed in

Continued on Page A18

In Boston, Land of Colleges, a Funding Attack Strikes at Its Core

By JENNA RUSSELL

BOSTON — For generations, students and researchers from around the world have flocked to Boston, drawn not just to a college or university but to a region where high-minded intellectual life was part of its brand. The Boston area has thrived from their presence, its many schools and top-ranked research hospitals keeping its economy strong and its living standard largely unmatched in the United States.

"It's the densest concentration of academic talent in the world," said Lawrence S. Bacow, who served as president of Harvard University from 2018 to 2023 and as president of Tufts University from 2001 to 2011. "Universities and teaching hospitals are to Boston what cars are to Detroit."

with anxiety. The Trump administration's assault on funding for higher education poses a bigger threat to Boston and the surrounding region than perhaps anywhere else in the country. Harvard is facing a government review of \$9 billion in federal grants and contracts, several universities are freezing hiring and rescinding admissions offers, research labs are closing, and international students are being targeted for deportation.

And Boston is confronting a once-implausible question: Will its core identity survive?

"Boston is the target in this fight," Mayor Michelle Wu said in her State of the City speech last month. "We were built on the values this federal administration seeks to tear down."

There has rarely been cause to



Trump's Strength on Economy May Turn Into G.O.P. Liability

The time after a presidential election can feel like a moment of clarity. The results, after all, are finally in.

But over the last two decades, the post-election period hasn't offered any clarity at all about the future of American politics. The winning party repeatedly convinces itself it has won a mandate, or even a generational advantage. The shellshocked losers retreat into internal debate. And then just a few months later, it becomes clear that the next phase of American politics will not be what the winners imagined.

NATE
COHN
THE
TILT

"golden age." The special House elections in Florida and the Supreme Court election in Wisconsin confirmed that Democratic voters were not, in fact, stunned into submission by last November's election. More important, President Trump's sweeping tariffs — and the economic downturn that may follow — have created enormous political risks for Republicans.

In one key respect, the elections on Tuesday were not significant: They do not suggest that Democrats solved any of the problems that cost them the last election. Instead, they mostly reflect the party's advantage among the most highly informed,

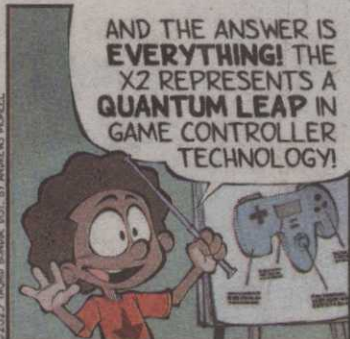
PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE

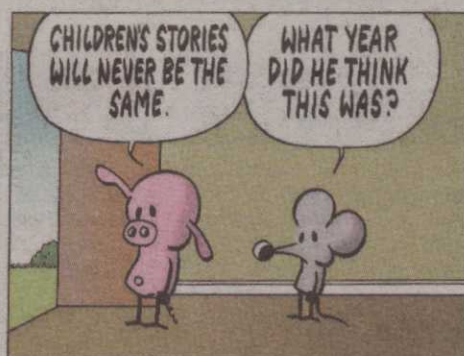
DOONESBURY By Garry Trudeau



CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



BY ROBB
PUNSTRONG



IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore



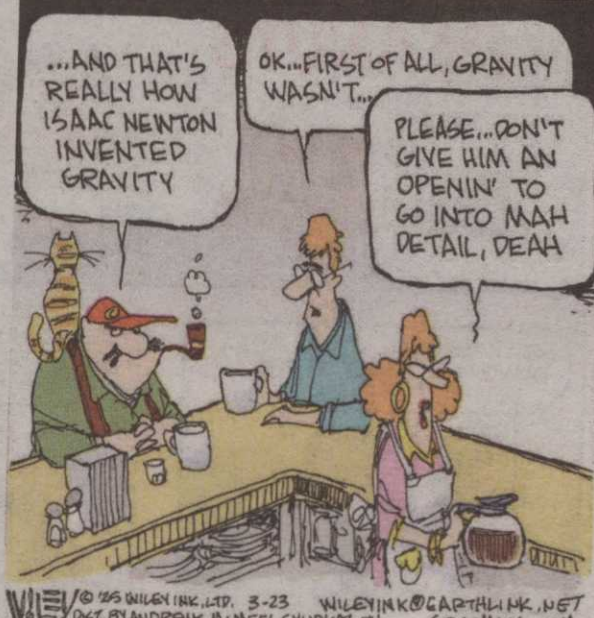
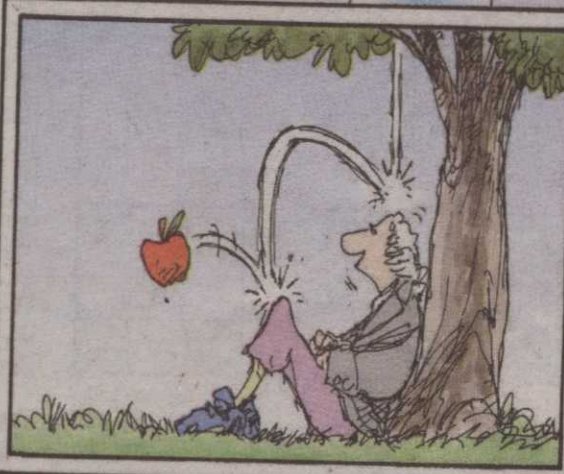
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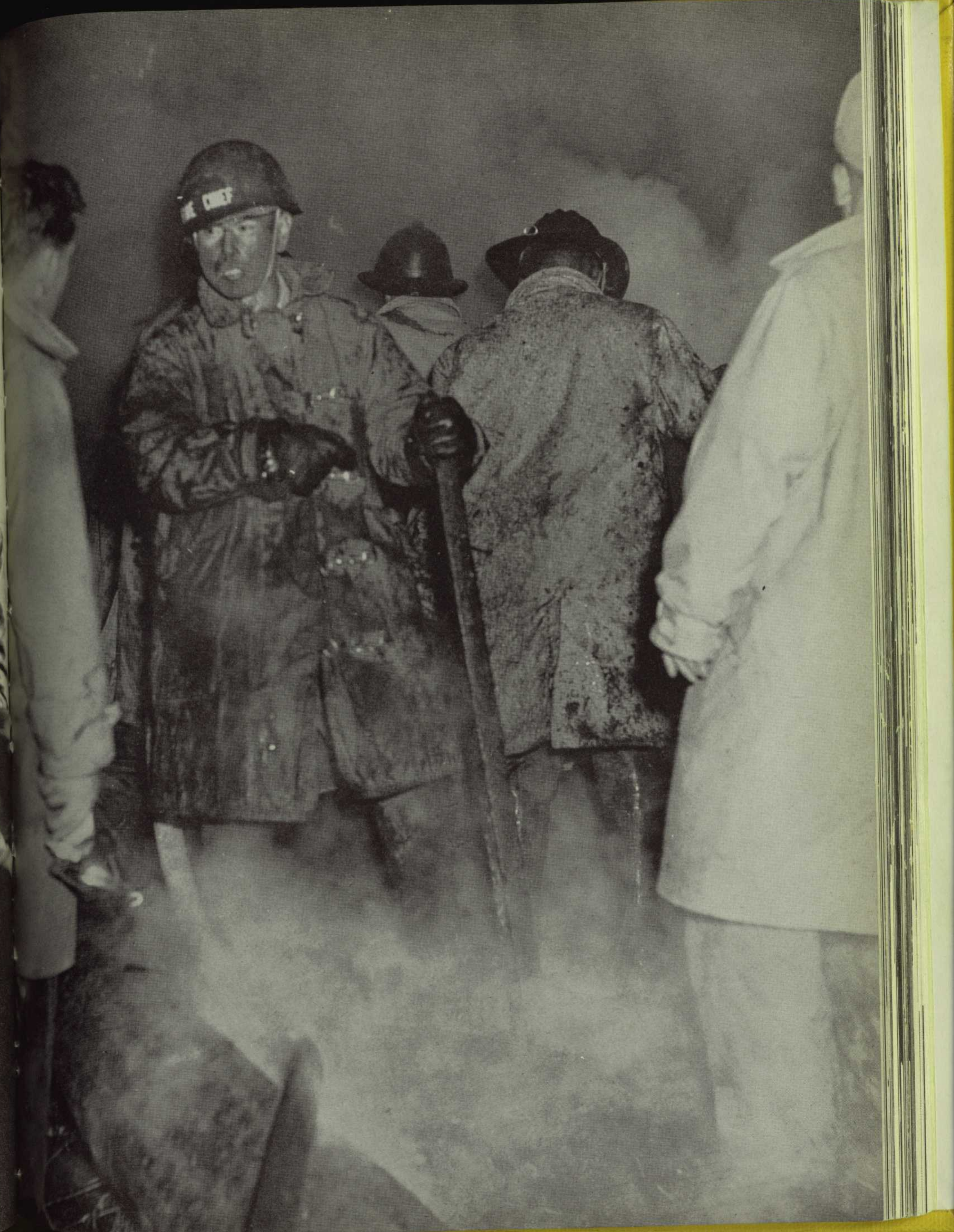
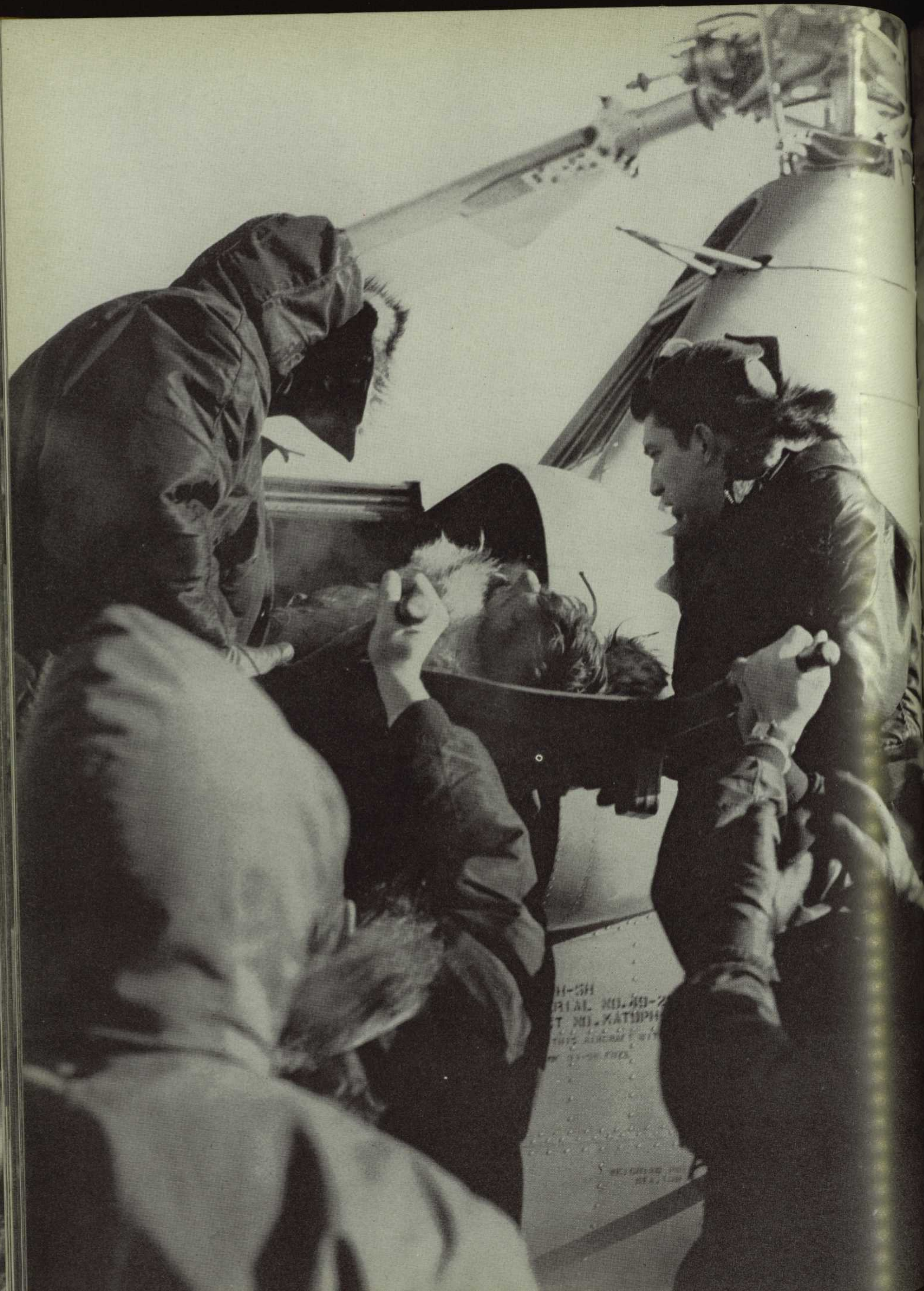
CURTIS By Ray Billingsley



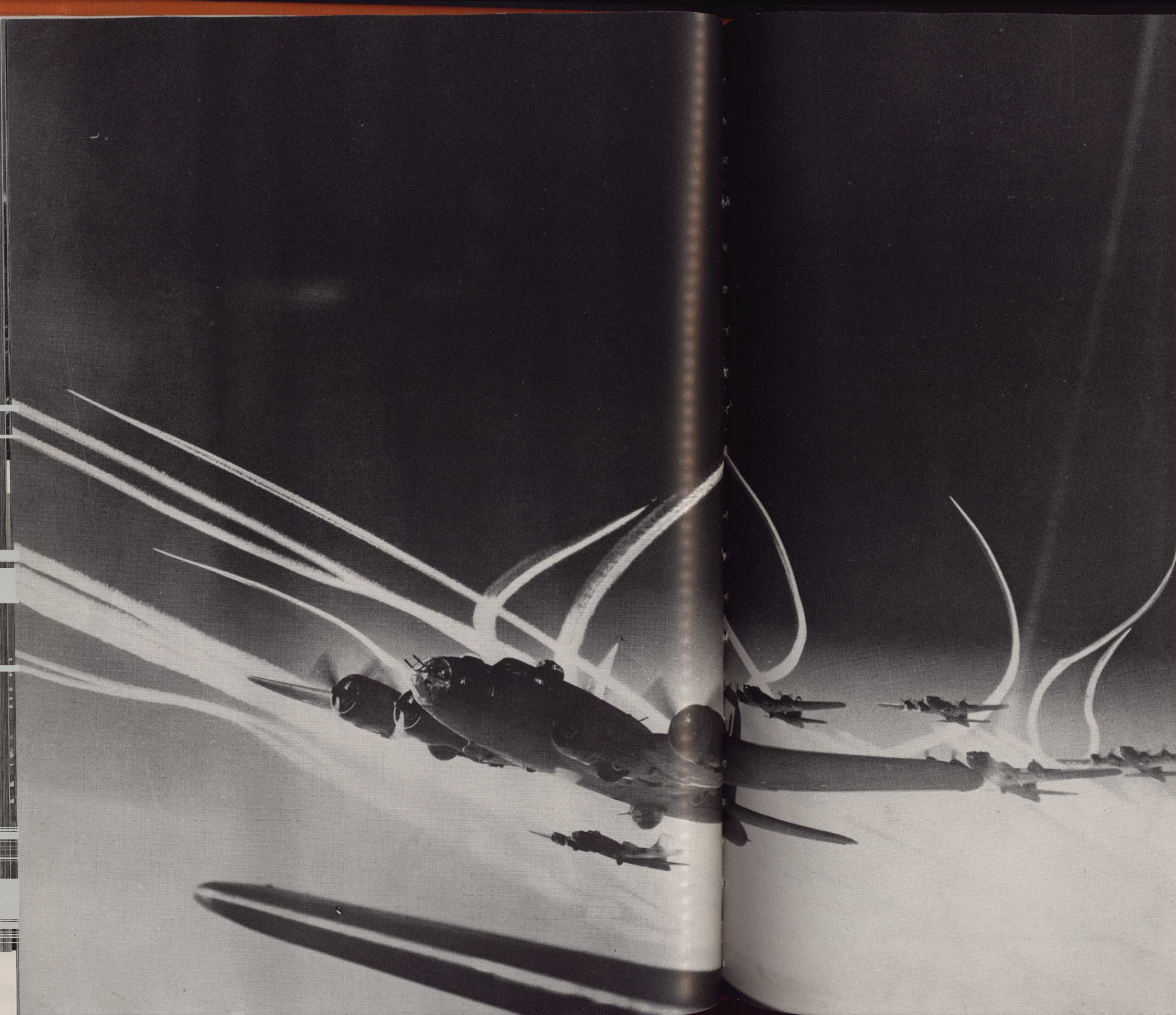
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



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VAPOUR TRAILS

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

Like monsters from Mars, these Boeing Flying Fortresses of the U. S. Eighth Air Force roar Germany-bound through the thin, rarefied air, leaving their marks, eerie vapour streams, in the sub-stratosphere. The curved trails, leading upward, are made by P-47 Thunderbolts, fighter escort accompanying the B-17's on their raid. The deadly 50-cal. machine guns, bristling from the leading Forts, are plainly visible against the light reflected from the contrails.

The Eighth Air Force, under Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker during 1943 and since January 1, 1944, under Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle, has operated from British soil as a daylight strategic force bombing Germany and occupied Europe in co-operation with the RAF's night raids. It was not until late in 1943 that the primary objective of destroying Germany's industrial system could be given the Eighth's full attention. Earlier efforts were of necessity directed against U-boat manufacturing, docking and repair facilities until the submarine menace was stymied in the Atlantic, while the North African campaign and the invasion of Italy required first claim on the output of our aircraft factories.

By late September, however, the destructive potential of daylight precision bombing was being realized, as instruments permitting bombing through a cloud cover were employed for the first time. After that the choice of targets was concentrated in the Reich, beginning with the October 4, 1943, assault on Frankfurt. The bombing pace during the closing months of 1943 was at the same time stepped up, November showing a 58% increase over October, December having a 3% gain on November in number of planes sent into the skies over Europe.

Late January found the combined Eighth Air Force-RAF offensive in full swing. The RAF attacked Berlin January 28; Frankfurt was hit by 806 bombers of the Eighth the next day, escorted by 634 fighters, while Brunswick and Hanover were targets the next day.

From there on in the plan of attack was concentrated on the destruction of the Luftwaffe and its industrial means of survival, blasting at Schweinfurt, Regensburg, Augsburg, Ludwigshafen, Frankfurt, Brunswick and other targets. Between February 20 and 25, especially, the Eighth and the RAF hit a dozen aircraft factories.

In March the first daylight raids against Berlin were launched, with more than 3800 tons dropped between March 6 and 9, as Fortresses, accompanied by fighter escorts of the newly transferred Ninth Air Force, roared over the German capital.



SUBMARINE QUARTERS—U. S. NAVY



EASTER SUNDAY, NEW YORK

ARTHUR SASSE, INP

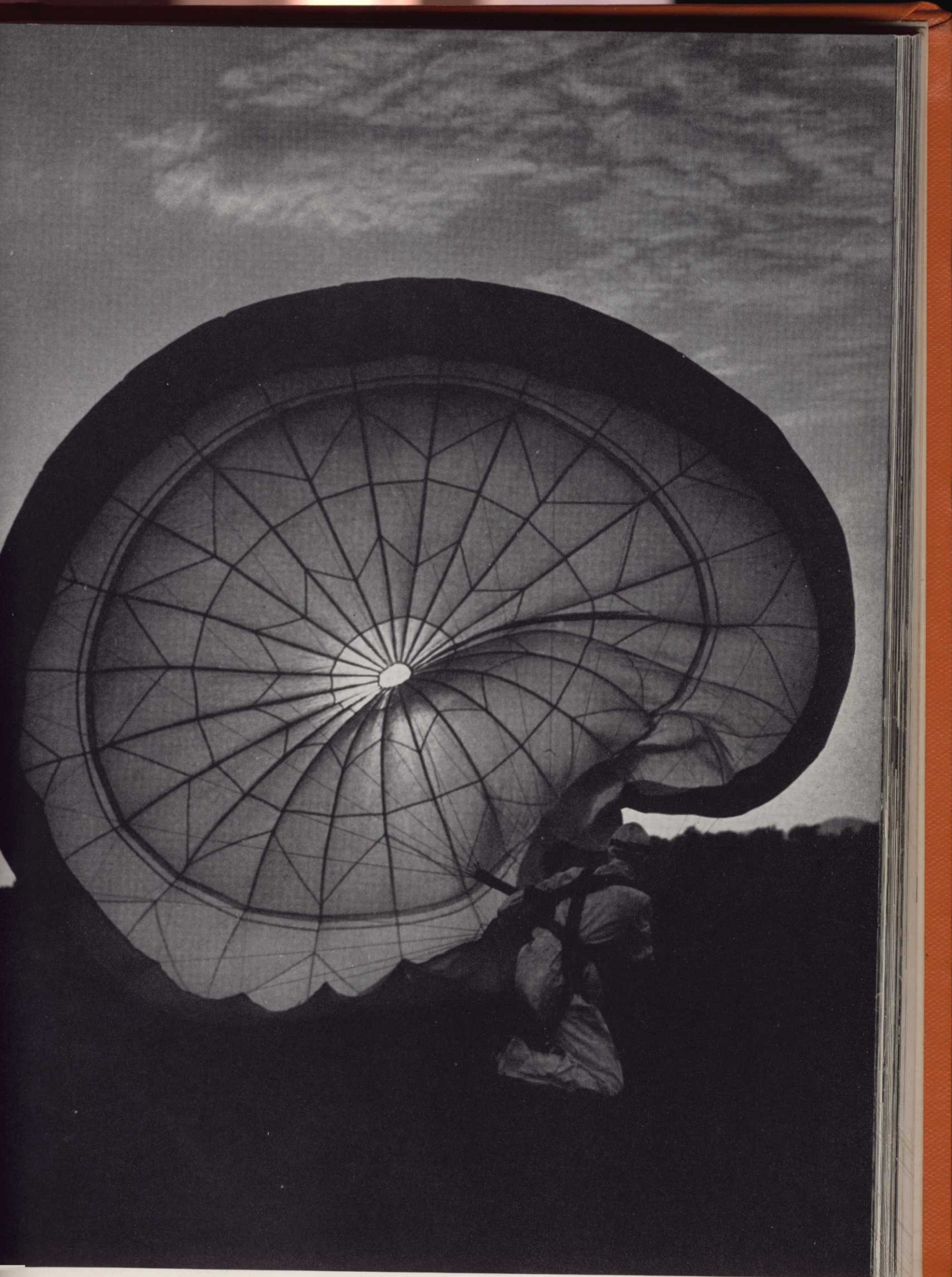
Out for the duration, as far as service women are concerned, are the flower and veil concoctions, spring bonnets and other finery so temptingly displayed in store windows.

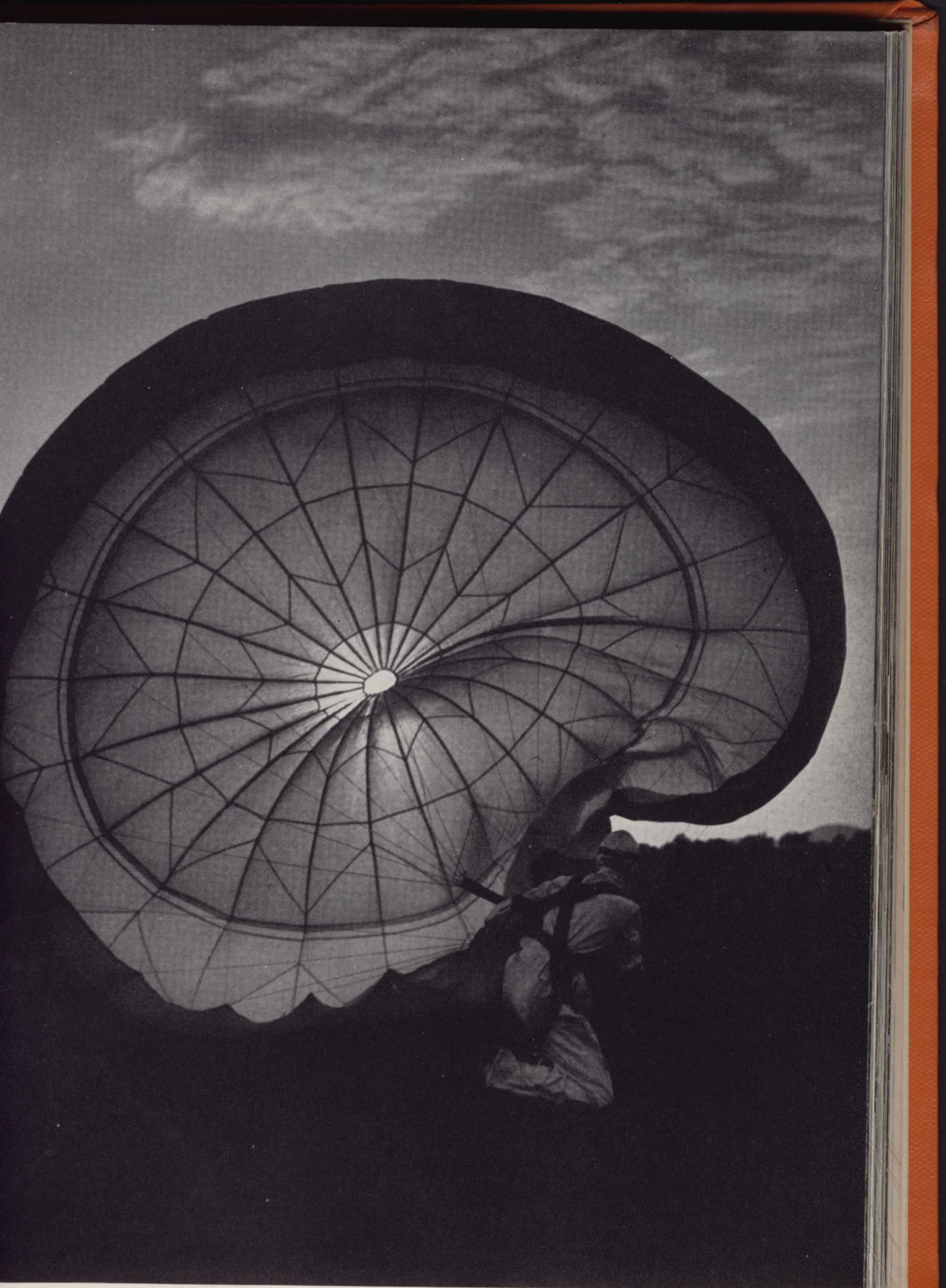
These WACS and WAVES can still laugh about the clothes situation even though they look longingly at the forbidden glamourizers. They, like thousands of women in service, have taken on man-sized jobs.

In the short space of two years, the WAVES, under the capable and sympathetic direction of Captain Mildred McAfee, have released nearly 70,000 men for sea or foreign duty stations. Admiral King, in a recent report on the progress of the Navy, had this to say about the WAVES: "The organization has been a success from the beginning, partly because of the high standards WAVES had to meet to be accepted, partly because no effort has been spared to see that they are properly looked out for and partly because of their desire to make good."

The WAC celebrated its second year of organization in May of this year. Under the leadership of Col. Oveta Culp Hobby, the active strength of the WAC has been increased to 77,000 now on duty in this country, where there are about 400 Army installations. The WAC was the first of the women's organizations to be attached to the Armed Forces and the only one still to be allowed to serve overseas. More than 7,000 of the WAC soldiers are now serving overseas in England, Normandy, Africa, Italy, India, Australia, New Guinea, Hawaii, Canada and Labrador. Members of the Women's Army Corps serving with the Army Air Forces—the Air WACS—form almost one-half of the Army's total WAC personnel.

These women in the Armed Services are sharing the hard work as well as the privileges of their fellow soldiers. Admiral King, in talking about the WAVES, made a statement which is certainly applicable to all women in service. He said: "I believe it is increasingly clear to all of us that it is America's destiny to become the cornerstone of stability. Such stability can arise only from the individual stability of each American citizen. Of one thing in a cloudy future I am perfectly confident: we never had a finer generation of young American women to see the country through. My confidence is strengthened by my observations of the conduct and integrity of thousands of young American women who proudly wear the United States uniform."





Mayor, LAPD tout data on drop in crimes

Anti-violence efforts led to a 14% decline in homicides and 225 fewer gunfire victims last year, they say.

By Libor Janý

Los Angeles leaders are touting the latest batch of crime data as proof that the city is safe and getting safer — at least on paper.

Homicides declined roughly 14% in the city last year compared with 2023, while 225 fewer people were struck by gunfire citywide in the same period, according to figures released Monday.

The total number of homicides fell by 47 in areas patrolled by the L.A. Police Department, with the San Fernando Valley seeing the largest percentage decrease of the department's four geographical bureaus, with a 28% decline in slayings last year from 2023.

City and police officials attributed the declines to programs aimed at some of the city's historically troubled housing developments. Areas where the LAPD's Community Safety Partnership and the mayor's gang intervention office "have taken proactive measures to engage residents" saw a 40% reduction in homicides, the city said in a statement.

Mayor Karen Bass and LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell held a news conference Monday morning to trumpet the anti-violence initiatives.

"This progress is the direct result of the tireless work of our law enforcement officers, community leaders and residents who have come together to build a safer, stronger city," Bass said in a statement. "While we recognize this progress, we remain committed to sustaining these reductions and ensuring that every resident feels safe in their home, on their street and in their community."

McDonnell called the dwindling homicide and shooting numbers a reflection of "the impact of our ongoing commitment to public safety and the strength of

[See Crimes, A5]



Photographs by JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

ELIOT ARTS Magnet Academy was among the schools burned in the Eaton fire, Pasadena Unified has suffered years of declining enrollment and is grappling with the exhaustion of pandemic-era U.S. funds.

Already reeling from fire, Pasadena Unified cuts staff

Many districts are seeing layoffs, but the pain is especially acute as teachers and students face Eaton blaze aftermath

By Daniel Miller



JOY McCREARY, a teacher at Blair Middle and High School in Pasadena who is seven months pregnant, recently got a layoff notice.

Joy McCreary's 12th-grade advanced literature class had just ended at Blair Middle and High School when a substitute teacher came to relieve her. McCreary was needed in the principal's office. She sensed what was coming.

Pasadena Unified School District, roiled by years of declining enrollment and grappling with the exhaustion of pandemic-era federal funds, needed to slash \$12 million from its budget — and the school board had just voted to send out preliminary layoff notices to dozen of teachers. McCreary, who is seven months pregnant, did a simple calculation: "The golden rule is last in, first out. The writing was on the wall. I can do the math, I can count the positions."

McCreary, 28, began gathering her things. Students noticed. "They asked, 'What's going on?' And I said, 'I'm probably about to be laid off right now,'" she told The Times. "And they asked, 'What are you talking about? ... This is crazy.'"

Then they pleaded with her, "You can't leave us."

Pasadena Unified isn't alone: Nearly 2,000 teachers in about 40 California school districts have received preliminary layoff notices in recent weeks, according to the California Teachers Assn. Districts

[See Pasadena, A5]

Wider areas may be at risk of tsunami

A worst-case scenario could bring flooding to swaths of Marina del Rey, Long Beach and farther inland.

By Rong-Gong Lin II and Grace Toohey

The risk of damaging flooding from a major tsunami may be greater than many realized along stretches of California's renowned coastline, state officials say, further reinforcing the need for residents to take note if they live in or visit hazard areas.

The most recent risk assessment, outlined in maps that were published by the California Geological Survey and reviewed by The Times, illustrates the devastation that could result from scenarios considered to be extreme but realistic. For instance, a large tsunami could flood swaths of Marina del Rey, Long Beach and the nearby dual port complex to an elevation of up to 15 feet above sea level.

A worst-case tsunami could bring flooding to sizable areas of Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda, up to 18 feet above sea level.

Flooding could reach up to 30 feet above the average high tide along the outer coast of Humboldt Bay and the Eureka area, and up to 50 feet toward Crescent City and Cayucos.

[See Tsunami, A10]

State bill would protect wetlands

Proposal aims to restore safeguards after Supreme Court ruling limited them.

By Ian James

California lawmakers are proposing legislation that aims to reestablish safeguards for the state's streams and wetlands in response to a Supreme Court ruling limiting federal clean water regulations.

Supporters say the legislation has taken on heightened urgency as the Trump administration begins to scale back protections for many streams and wetlands, making them vulnerable to pollution and worsening water quality.

"We need clean water to

Schiff rejects Trump's 'void' claim about Biden pardons

Senator says assertion regarding the Jan. 6 committee members is 'baseless,' and they will not be silenced.

By Kevin Rector

Sen. Adam Schiff on

ceived a pardon from Biden in the final days of his presidency, despite having personally discouraged the move.

Schiff previously served in the House, where he helped lead the select committee to investigate the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump's supporters. The committee's work led to Trump being im-

Trump has lambasted Biden's pardons since they were issued. But he went a step further in a Sunday post on his social media website, in which he adopted a conspiracy theory pushed online by right-wing pundits that Biden's pardons were invalid because they were signed using an "autopen" — resulting in a digital, not handwritten, signature.



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

PLAY BALL!

Crews prepare the Tokyo Dome for the Dodgers' season opener against the Chicago Cubs at